

**Specification Amendments**

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 15, with:

--FIGS. 3a and 3b show the schematic structure of the data blocks transmitted from the port units to the central switching unit (Figure 3a) and from the central switching unit to the port units (Figure 3b); and

FIG. 4 is a block circuit diagram of a switching unit according to the invention.--